

V. REMARKS

Applicant hereby files a machine translation of Sakamoto (JP 10174738) for careful examination by the Examiner. The Examiner will note that Sakamoto fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention as discussed in more detail below. Specifically, regarding the attachment structure of the transparent resin plate 26, Sakamoto only describes that the transparent resin plate 26 is provided to close the opening 22a (c.f. Paragraph [0017]).

Since this reference has already been considered by the Examiner, Applicant does not believe that this machine translation of Sakamoto should be submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Sakamoto (JP 10174738). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sakamoto teaches a gaming machine that makes it easier for a player to visually recognize claims dispensed into a coin-receiving tray even if the gaming machine is installed in a dimly-lit place. An opening is formed at the lower phase of a frame that is opposed to the coin-receiving tray. Light emitted from a fluorescent lamp illuminating a decorative panel eliminates the coin-receiving tray through a transparent resin plate covering the opening. Information such as "ABC" can be drawn all in the transparent resin plate so that the information can be projected onto the coin-receiving tray.

Claim 1 is directed to a gaming machine including a cabinet, a belly panel, a symbol row display device, an operation input device, an internal lottery device, an illumination device, a transparent member placement part and a transparent member. Claim 1 recites that the cabinet has a front side and the belly panel is releasably connected to the cabinet and is operable to move to a cover state where a portion of the front side of the cabinet is covered by the belly panel and an exposed state where the portion of the front side of the cabinet is uncovered when the belly panel is positioned away from the cabinet. Claim 1 further recites that the symbol row display

device is configured to display a plurality of symbols for a player to arrange the symbols, the operation input device includes a lever or a button to be operated by the player to play a game, the internal lottery device is configured to carry out an internal lottery of the game with a random number and the illumination device is configured to illuminate a tray formed on the cabinet of the gaming machine. Also, claim 1 recites that the transparent member placement part attached to the portion of the front side of the cabinet and the transparent member detachably disposed between the illumination device and the tray. Additionally, claim 1 recites that, when the belly panel is in the exposed state, the transparent member placement part is operative to slidably receive the transparent member and, when the belly panel is in the cover state, the transparent member is slidably received by the transparent member placement part such that the transparent member is positioned between the belly panel and the portion of the front side of the cabinet thereby retaining the transparent member substantially immovable therebetween.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach that the cabinet has a front side and the belly panel is releasably connected to the cabinet and is operable to move to a cover state where a portion of the front side of the cabinet is covered by the belly panel and an exposed state where the portion of the front side of the cabinet is uncovered when the belly panel is positioned away from the cabinet. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach that a transparent member placement part is attached to the portion of the front side of the cabinet. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach that, when the belly panel is in the exposed state, the transparent member placement part is operative to slidably receive the transparent member and, when the belly panel is in the cover state, the transparent member is slidably received by the transparent member placement part such that the transparent member is positioned between the belly panel and the portion of the front side of the cabinet thereby retaining the transparent member

substantially immovable therebetween. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that the cabinet has a front side and the belly panel is releasably connected to the cabinet and is operable to move to a cover state where a portion of the front side of the cabinet is covered by the belly panel and an exposed state where the portion of the front side of the cabinet is uncovered when the belly panel is positioned away from the cabinet. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach that a transparent member placement part is attached to the portion of the front side of the cabinet. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach that, when the belly panel is in the exposed state, the transparent member placement part is operative to slidably receive the transparent member and, when the belly panel is in the cover state, the transparent member is slidably received by the transparent member placement part such that the transparent member is positioned between the belly panel and the portion of the front side of the cabinet thereby retaining the transparent member substantially immovable therebetween.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the features of the applied art because such applied art is devoid of such features. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

As mentioned above, claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto in view of Corsetti (WO 98/05575). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Corsetti teaches a removable insert for coin trays.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

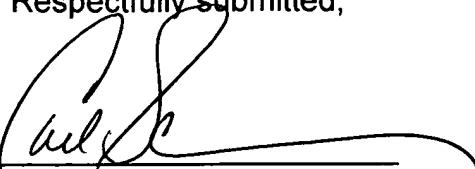
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

  
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Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal  
                        Petition for Extension of Time (1 month)  
                        Machine translation of Sakamoto (JP 10174738)

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